

**OSWALD GEORGE JAMES**  
**Son of Oswald George JAMES and Frances THOMPSON**

**Born 19 Sept 1894 - Oswald George JAMES** was in Liverpool, Lancashire England, the son of Oswald George James and Frances Thompson.

**1911 – The Sedgewick Boys** - Three groups of fifty boys were brought to New Zealand as young immigrants before the outbreak of the First World War. They were brought out to alleviate a shortage of farming boys and were

to be trained in all aspects of farming life as well as to be clothed and fed. Their wages were to be paid to the Labour Department while they were given weekly pocket money. The first group of boys were organised by Thomas Edward Sedgwick of London, and arrived in Wellington on the 25 January 1911 on board the ss *Athenic*. Oswald G James (jnr) was one of these boys.



**NO.1 TROOP, W.M.R. IN CAMP AT AWAPUNI, 1914.**

No. 1, Ossie James, now of Rotorua; No. 2, Jim Busby, Hurahura Road; No. 3, Arthur James, Poplar Street; No. 4, Harold Thomas, Seymour Road; No. 5, Bob King, Endcliffe Road; No. 6, Tas Percy, Russell Street.

**2 Sep 1914**

**9TH WELLINGTON EAST COAST MOUNTED RIFLES.**

Major S. Chambers.  
 Captain C. R. Spragg.  
 Lieutenants N. D. Cameron, P. T. Emerson, A. Georgetti, H. B. Maunsell.  
 Squadron Sergeant-Major R. J. D. Davis.  
 Squadron Quartermaster-Sergeant C. E. Rogers.  
 Sergeants F. McIvor, J. D. K. Strang, C. H. Brown, A. R. Cunningham, A. W. S. Murray, O. L. Knight, L. A. Copstick, G. Hood.  
 Sergeant-Tailor L. M. Kyle.  
 Lance-Sergeant J. H. Richardson.  
 Farrier-Sergeant A. H. Westwood.  
 Shoening-smith Corporal S. Skeet.  
 Shoening Smiths H. Simpson, J. J. Bailey, F. J. Witton.  
 Saddler-Corporal T. Moir.  
 Trumpeters H. J. Hyde, O. G. James.  
 Corporals G. E. Drower, D. M. Gilray, O. Oberhuber, W. H. Ebbitt, M. J. Curtis, A. L. Morgan, J. J. P. Dray.

**Oct 1914** - Oswald G James (jnr) joined the Wellington Mounted Rifles and was discharged in England in July 1915 due to injury to his knee caused from his horse falling on him during parade. He again enlisted in England and was assigned to the NZ Field Artillery, then transferred to the NZ Mounted Rifles.

**May 7 1915** – Oswald George JAMES (snr.) was on the British Merchant Ship, "Lusitania", when it was she was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat, causing the deaths of 1,198 passengers and crew of which included the father of Oswald James (jnr)

O G James saw service in Egypt at Gallipoli During WWII he was in the Home Guard at Tolaga Bay and awarded a Long Service Medal

8<sup>th</sup> January 1918

Trooper O. G. James left with the Main Body, attached to the Wellington Mounted Rifles. On Gallipoli he was wounded in the leg, and after spending a little time in hospital in England, he went to France on the headquarters staff in the latter part of 1916. The last six months he spent in Palestine, where his leg wound became septic, and he was invalided home for discharge. This soldier had in his possession interesting souvenirs of the blood-stained peninsula in two Turkish rifles, exquisitely carved, which were secured by him on outpost No. 3.

Ossie James was a great supporter and participant of Dog Trials and belonged to the Tolaga Bay Club



Some of the veterans present photographed with the club president and secretary. Back row: J. T. Dunlop, O. James, A. Cranswick, J. S. Bishop (secretary), B. Sayers, F. Hooper. Front row: B. Lincoln, A. Donald, P. A. Tombleson (president), R. Berry, J. McIntosh, K. McIntosh.

1918 – Oswald G James married Esther May (nee' Wilson)



Recent celebrants of their 50th wedding anniversary were Mr and Mrs O. G. (Ozzie) James, King Road, Owkata, Rotorua. Mr and Mrs James will be well remembered by many residents of Tolaga Bay and Gisborne. They farmed at Takapau, about eight miles from Tolaga Bay, for many years, before retiring and going to live in Rotorua.



The brass and copper bugle, which belonged to NZ soldier Oswald James, was played at the first Anzac Day memorial in 1916.

Gallipoli 2015:

WWI bugle to be played at Gold Coast Anzac memorial  
22 Apr 2015

A **HISTORIC BUGLE**, which was played at the very first Anzac Day memorial in London in 1916, will be played this year for the first time in more than a quarter of a century.

The bugle belonged to World War One New Zealand Mounted Rifles soldier **Oswald James**.

It will be played for the first time since his funeral in 1971, at this year's Currumbin RSL midday service.

His grandson Paul Bailey will be among the crowd. "It's going to be a very, very important part of our family history," Paul said.

Lt James, then Trooper James, was part of the second wave of troops that landed at Gallipoli.

He was wounded while assisting other wounded soldiers off the cliffs during the subsequent evacuation.

Paul said his grandfather was sent to hospital in London and when he recovered the powers-that-be had another special job for him.

"He was selected as one of the buglers to play the Last Post and Reveille in Westminster Abbey, in front of King George and Queen Mary on the 25th of April, 1916," he said.

When Lt James left the service and returned home, the bugle came with him. "He did not return his bugle; he wanted to keep that as something very important to him," Paul said.

"It was very near and dear to himself; no matter what, he always played the bugle at every Anzac service."

Although it is more than 100 years old, the copper and brass instrument is in remarkable condition.

"It has got a few dents here and there in it but nothing major," Paul said

Her Father Oswald 'Ossie' James served at Gallipoli and made it home to tell the tales. Ossie was a bugler

**4 May 1971** – Oswald George JAMES died in Rotorua.

His bugle was played for the last time at his funeral until the 25 April 2015 ANZAC Commemorations held at the Gold Coast ANZAC Memorial

Also refer to You Tube:

**Published on Apr 8, 2015 – Video of** Audrey Finch (daughter of O G & E James) recalls stories of her father during world war one as they were told to her as a child.